

REMARKS

This paper responds the Office Action mailed March 27, 2001 ("the Office Action"). Claims 1 and 5-11 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

Section 2 of the office action objected to the drawings due to informalities in Figure 11. An amended Figure 11 is attached, with the proposed changes circled. Applicants thus believe that the drawing objection has been overcome.

Abstract

Section 4 of the office action objected to the abstract due to informalities. The abstract has been amended along the lines suggested by the Examiner, thus overcoming the objection to the abstract.

Specification

Section 5 of the office action objected to the specification due to informalities. The specification has been amended along the lines suggested by the Examiner, thus overcoming the objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Section 6 of the office action rejected claims 1 and 5-11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 6, 8 and 11 have been amended herein to more clearly define the claimed

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the abstract with the following:

A table saw apparatus including [and] an extendable table [is provided]. The table saw also includes a rip fence with a constant alignment spring finger to ensure alignment at all times between the rip fence and the table saw blade. The table saw further includes a self-adjusting rip fence scale associated with the extending portion of the table. The table saw further includes a self-aligning blade guard that, once adjusted a first time, ensures alignment between the blade guard and the blade on any subsequent installations of the guard. The table saw also includes a novel cradle assembly for elevating and beveling the blade.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 7 with the following:

-- Turning next to FIGs. 3 and 3A, first table 6 includes a fence rail/table lock facilitated by lock 16. FIG. 3 shows a bottom view of first table 6 with lock 16 mounted to first surface 30, and FIG. 3A illustrates a portion of first table 6, with first rail 10 positioned to expose slide 14 attached to first table 6. Lock 16 is used to lock second table 8 at any desired distance from first table 6 within preset limits of travel, for example, about 10.25 to 10.5 inches. Lock 16 is designed in such a manner so as to clamp first rail 10 and second rail 12 to front 17 and back 19 of first table 6 with approximately equal pressure. Lock 16 includes a cam mechanism 26 that is positioned in a bushing 28 that is free to float in a front to back direction. Mounted to cam mechanism 26 are first clamping rod 22 and second clamping rod 24. First clamping rod 22 extends through a hole 11 in first table 6 and through a slot 13 in first rail 10 (slot 13 is shown,

for example, in FIG. 17). A tee or other shaped member (not shown) larger than hole 11 is disposed at the distal end of first clamping rod 22. In a manner similar to that disclosed in conjunction with first rail 10, second clamping rod 24 extends through a hole (not shown) in first table 6 and a slot (not shown) in second rail 12 with a tee or other shape larger than the slot in the same manner as described for first clamping rod 22. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 8 with the following:

-- A lock lever 18 is attached to cam mechanism 26 to aid in the locking rotation of the mechanism. Lock lever 18 is attached opposite first surface 30. Lock lever 18 is located in a position such that it extends from a second surface 20 when in the unlocked position shown in FIG. 4. The [extending] extended position is such that it obstructs the operator from using table saw 2 if the lock 16 is not engaged. This obstruction facilitates the safety of the operator as the table saw may not be conveniently used with the second table unlocked. When the locking mechanism 16 is rotated to the locked position as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2, lock lever 18 is flush or below with second, or top, surface 20. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 9 with the following:

Table saw 2 further includes a rip fence 40, an embodiment of which is illustrated in FIGs. 5-7. Rip fence 40 may attach to table saw 2 via first and second rails 10 and 12. Rip fence 40 may include a longitudinal body 42 with a head 44 attached to a first end 43. Head 44 has at least one head glide 46, preferably having two head glides 46 and 47 shown in FIG. 6. Head glides 46 and 47 are engagable with first rail 10. Head 44 also includes at least one spring finger 136 incorporated onto the head glides such that head 44 is biased to squared engagement with

first rail 10, with [a] bumpers 52 meeting a face 21 of first rail 10. At a second end 45 of rip fence 40 is a second end glide 138 which is engagable with second rail 12. A fence lock rod 9, shown in FIG. 7, extends substantially the entire length of rip fence 40 and enables locking engagement of the rip fence with first and second rails 10 and 12. At the head 44 end of fence lock rod 9, the lock rod engages a fence cam lever 62. Fence cam lever 62 includes a pin cam 56 and annular contact ball bearings 58. The opposing end of fence lock rod 9 is attached to a plate lock 60. Rip fence 40 may be locked in essentially any position along rip fence rails 10 and 12 by placing the rip fence glides 46, 47, and 138, onto rip fence rails 10 and 12, and then rotating fence cam lever 62 to the locked position. The rotation of fence cam lever 62 transmits a force along fence lock rod 9, which in turn "squeezes" bumper 52 into frictional engagement with face 21 of first rail 10 while also forcing second end glide 138 into similar engagement with second rail 12. Spring fingers 136 continue to ensure the engagement of head 40 with rail 10 remains square.

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 10 with the following:

-- In the embodiment shown in FIG. 8, rip fence scale 64 is incorporated into first rail 10. Rip fence scale 64 includes a flexible tape measure 66 extending along a top side 68 of first rail 10 and continuing around both first 70 and second 72 ends of the first rail 10 to extend along at least a portion of the length of an underside 74 of the first rail 10. A tension spring 76 is shown in FIG. 10, which connects first end 78 and second end 80 of flexible tape measure 66. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, the connection of first 78 and second 80 ends is at underside 74 of rail 10. Flexible tape measure 66 is fixedly mounted to first table 6 at least at one point 69. In the illustrated embodiment, point 69 is fixed relative to the saw blade. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 13 with the following:

Motor assembly 120 is attached to elevation mechanism 98 at three mounting points. This constitutes an advantage over conventional elevation mechanisms that typically include more than three [counting] mounting points and more than two bars. First mounting point 122 may be seen in FIG. 14 between motor assembly 120 and second bar 104. Preferably, the mounted connection between second bar 104 and first mounting point 122 is slidable. Second bar 104 is a guide bar and restricts motor assembly 120 from pivoting left and right (as viewed in FIG. 13). A second mounting point 124 shown in FIG. 13 connects motor assembly 120 to first bar 100. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 13, second mounting point 124 attaches to an unthreaded portion of first bar 100, however, threaded portion 106 may extend all the way to second mounting point 124 in an alternative embodiment. A third mounting point 126 connects motor assembly 120 to the threaded portion 106 of first bar 100. The combination of first bar 100 and second and third mounting points 124 and 126 prevent motor assembly 120 from rotating from front to back (as viewed in FIG. 13).

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 7 of page 14 with the following:

The threaded portion 106 of first bar 124 engages third mounting point 126 such that with the rotation of first bar 100, motor assembly 120 moves up or down along the longitudinal axis of first and second bars 100 and 104, depending on the direction of rotation. Rotation is normally facilitated by crank handle 118, which may be rotated by an operator, which in turn rotates [first] first bar 100 via bevel gears 108 and 110.

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 of page 16 with the following:

Turning next to FIGS. 15-19, the portable table saw 2 has the capacity to store a number of accessories to facilitate easy transport. Moreover, base 4 is a two-part assembly—lower part 180 adds stiffness and acts as a skid to allow table saw 2 to slide easily on rough or uneven surfaces. Storage for rip fence 40, miter gauge 192, blade guard 82, blade wrenches 182, [blade] blades 184, and power cord 194 are all provided on the saw. The storage is designed such that the saw 2 can be turned and tilted in virtually any direction without the components detaching while in the stored positions. Referring to FIG. 15A, spacers 185 are provided that may be placed between spare blades 184 that are being stored on the saw 2. When the spacers are placed between the blades, the tips 187 of the blades [187] 184 are protected from contacting one another which protects tips 187 from being chipped or broken.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (AMENDED) A table saw comprising:

a base;

a first table mounted to the base;

a second table; and

first and second rails having first and second ends, [the first ends] wherein the rails are slidably mounted to the first table and the second ends are rigidly mounted to the second table such that the second table is slidably movable relative to the first table.

6. (AMENDED) The table saw according to claim 5, wherein the first table defines a first surface, and wherein the locking mechanism further comprises a lever extending from [a] the first surface when the locking mechanism is in an unlocked position.

8. (AMENDED) The table saw [table] according to claim 5, wherein the locking mechanism comprises means for applying equal locking pressure to the first and second rails.

11. (AMENDED) The table saw [table] according to claim 9, wherein the first table defines a second surface opposite the first surface, and wherein the locking mechanism is attached to [a] the second surface.